

Department of State

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ACTION ARA-16

1566

6/16/81

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

AQ095

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 H-01 NSCE-00
NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06 L-03 INRE-00 SP-02 /054 W

-----036671 162123Z 772-66

O 162000Z JUN 81
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9921

BUENOS AIRES 4488

I.O. 12065: GDS 6/16/81 (KING, J.F.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (C) ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARED

REFS: A) STATE 156137, B) DA 4054, C) BA 0380, D) BA 1085,
E) BA 0566

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. EMBOFF SPOKE JUNE 16 WITH FONMIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS CHIEF MILINA SALAS WHO CONFIRMED IN GENERAL TERMS SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSION HE AND CANDIOTTI HAD LATE IN MAY WITH MR. LUCIER (REF A). HE SAID LUCIER WAS TOLD THAT A FULL ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARED WAS "ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE" AND THE ANSWER TO ANY REQUEST FOR SUCH AN UNDERTAKING WOULD HAVE TO BE A FLAT NO. WHAT IS POSSIBLE, MOLINA SAID LUCIER WAS TOLD, IS THAT "A LINE COULD BE DRAWN" IN TIME, THAT IS TO SAY FROM THE RECENT PAST TO THE PRESENT, WHICH COULD BE THE STARTING POINT FOR A REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION, IF ONLY PARTIAL, OF THE STATUS OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS. MILINA SAID HE DOES NOT RECALL STATING THAT THIS DIVIDING LINE COULD BE FROM 1979 ON, BUT DID NOT ARGUE THE POINT; ONCE A CUT-OFF DATE WAS DETERMINED, HE SAID, "IT WOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO PRODUCE AN ACCOUNTING."

3. ASKED IF THE FONMIN WAS ENGAGED IN SUCH A REVIEW, MOLINA MADE IT CLEAR THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE ARMED SERVICES (REF B). WHILE NOMINALLY PRESIDED OVER BY MININT, HE HAS NO VOTE, THE FONMIN HAS A FORM OF OBSERVER STATUS ON THE COMMITTEE IN THE PERSON OF ITS OFFICER IN CHARGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, AND ALSO IS VOTELESS.

4. MOLINA SALAS NOTED THAT INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE PRESENTLY IS REVIEWING LIST PROVIDED EARLIER BY EMBASSY OF TEN PRISONERS IN WHICH THERE IS CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. HE SAID GOOD PROGRESS IS BEING MADE AND THAT HE EXPECTED DECISIONS SOON, MENTIONING IN THIS CONNECTION JORGE ENRIQUE TAINA (SEN. CRANSTON, REP. BURTON INTERESTED) IS CANDIDATE FOR EARLY RELEASE; EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD ABOUT 18 CONGRESSIONAL-INTEREST CASES NOW BEING REVIEWED BY I-M COMMITTEE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMITTEE TAKING UP QUESTION OF THE DISAPPEARED, MOLINA SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE ARMED FORCES OR ANY OTHER ELEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT WERE LOOKING INTO AN INITIATIVE. THE IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR THAT HIS MINISTRY, AT LEAST, IS NOT PUSHING IT; MOLINA EMPHASIZED HE WAS IN NO POSITION TO MAKE COMMITMENTS ON THIS SCORE TO MR. LUCIER OR ANYONE ELSE. HE ONLY REPEATED AN ACCOUNTING ON THE TERMS SUGGESTED SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO DO.

6. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL OBDURATE RESISTANCE FROM HIGHEST-LEVEL GOA REPS, EXPRESSED DURING VISITS HERE OF CODELS ZABLOCKI (REF C) AND COCHRAN (REF D), TO VERY IDEA OF ANY KIND OF ACCOUNTING; PRESIDENT VIOLA'S INSISTENCE TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO RENDER

ONE WOULD IMMEDIATELY "DESTABILIZE" HIS GOVERNMENT. (REF E) ALSO WILL BE RECALLED. WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT MILITARY ATTITUDES ON THIS EXPLOSIVE ISSUE HAVE CHANGED IN ANY MATERIAL WAY OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS; IF NOTHING, THEY HAVE HARDENED AS THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE STEPPED UP THE RHETORIC ON THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL "OPENING." WE THEREFORE MUST DISCOUNT THE PROSPECTS OF THE CIVILIAN SIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT MOVING INTO THE MINEFIELD OF THE DISAPPEARED, ALTHOUGH WE DO KNOW THEY ARE URGING, PROBABLY GENTLY, FASTER ACTION ON PEN PRISONER RELEASES. RUSER

R

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Lot 82D275
Box 3541
(2/17)

UNCLASSIFIED